

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 31 and 32, without prejudice, and add claim 34. Please amend claims 27, 29 and 33 as presented below:

97 *SUB D2* 27. (Amended) A method of modulating expression of a target nucleic acid comprising administering into the alimentary canal an effective amount of an oligonucleotide comprising a 2'-O-alkoxyalkoxy modification, wherein said oligonucleotide hybridizes to said target nucleic acid, and modulates the expression thereof.

92 *SUB E1* 29. (Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein said heteroatomic backbone modification is a methylene(methylimino) modification.

93 33. (Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein said 2'-alkoxyalkoxy modification is a 2'-methoxyethoxy modification.

94 *SUB D3* 34. (New) A method of modulating expression of a target nucleic acid comprising administering into the alimentary canal an effective amount of an oligonucleotide comprising a 2'-O-alkoxyalkoxy modification and a heteroatomic backbone modification, wherein said oligonucleotide hybridizes to said target nucleic acid, and modulates the expression thereof.